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VALLEY STAR

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BOB LA CATTIVA/VALLEY STAR

Residents of the condemned "Frederick Apts." in Sherman Oaks find a sense humor despite the madness instilled by the Northridge earthquake. **See page 4 and 5 for more quake coverage.**

College of Canyons coach accused of racial slurs

By HAROLD BROWN
Valley Star Staff Writer

A one-sided 28 point victory, 88-60, by College of the Canyons over LA Valley College women's basketball team, Saturday night at COC turned ugly. An alleged racial slur made by Greg Herrick, head coach for women's basketball at COC overshadowed the game and sport.

The incident happened immediately after the game. The ceremonial hand shaking did not happen after this game, at least not between the head coaches.

First year women's basketball coach, John Taylor of Valley extended his hand to Herrick in a congratulatory gesture.I don't shake hands with an [expletive], said Herrick, according to Taylor.

Taylor said, Herrick went to Valley's bench yelling in a verbally abusive manner, screaming his program had been bad-mouthed by the athletic administration at Valley. Taylor said he had no previous knowledge of this. Herrick then said, You are a [expletive] liar.

According to Taylor, Herrick further said, Take your [racial slur] and your [expletive] to the (school) Van and get out of here.

"I think it's despicable," Taylor said, referring to Herrick's comments.

Accorcing to the Los Angeles Times, Herrick vehemently denied charges and said,"They want to make it look like I'm a racist."

Chuck Ferrero, Valley's athletic director said, "Statements from four players and two coaches accusing Herrick of making derogatory remarks about black Valley players after the game were faxed to COC's President Dianne Van Hook."

Valley has five black players on its team while COC has one black player on its team. Previously one of Valley's players had complained to the officials about a player on COC using racial slurs while being guarded.

Western State Conference Commissioner, Aviva Kamin, is waiting for a resolution between the schools before acting on the matter according to published reports in the L.A. Times.

Glenn Hisayasu, dean of student services at COC said the matter would be fully investigated.

"COC does not condone in any shape or form any racist behavior and will take proper action if warranted."In the meantime, Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of administration at Valley said, "We expect to hear from them."

Valley and COC will play again, February 16 at North Hollywood High School at 6 p.m. with the men playing at 8 p.m.

Hearing set on harassment

By TIFFINIE P. McENTIRE
Valley Star Staff Writer

A date has been set by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) for a hearing regarding a sexual harassment complaint filed against Professor Lawrence ''Chuck'' Jorgensen last September. The hearing, set for Feb. 25, at 10 a.m., will enact a formal fact-finding procedure.

In a letter to the Director for the Office of Employer-Employee Relations for the district, Herbert Spillman, from designated representative to Jorgensen, Professor Farrel Broslawsky, a demand was issued for LAVC employees to appear to be examined and to answer questions under oath.

Sexual Harassment Compliance Officer Thomas Oliver and his assistant, Jeanne Polack, are requested to appear, as well as LAVC President Mary Lee, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Tyree Wieder, Director of Affirmative Action Programs for LACCD, Rod Patterson, AFT College President Leon Marzillier, and Pat Allen of the LAVC Sociology Department. The demand also requests the presence of the student who filed the initial complaint.

''Let us confront these people,'' said Broslawsky. ''No more secrets, let's get everything into the open .''

A resolution, adopted by the LAVC History, Humanities, Law and Political Science (HHLPS) Departments, regarding censorship in the classroom will be voted on by the LAVC Academic Senate and by student government Associated Student Union (ASU), on Feb. 23, when it will go to the Los Angeles Community College (LACC) Board of Trustees.

''If they (LAVC) want to play censor,'' Broslawsky said, ''we're gonna fight them.''

The HHLPS Department resolution ''calls upon the LACC Board of Trustees to end the deplorable assault upon academic freedom by terminating the application of the sexual harassment policy to general classroom language and materials that may be perceived as offensive to any individual.''

''The HHLPS Department gives its full and unqualified support to our respected colleague (Jorgensen) against the spurious and malicious charges of sexual harassment made about him, and we resolve to act in every way possible to have this defamation repudiated and expunged from all records and we demand that those reponsible for processing and perpetuating the accusations acknowledge and apologize for their complicity in sustaining the unwarrented charges.''

A previous demand addressed to Oliver filed on January 31 by Broslawsky, for Jorgensen, regarding the fact-finding process, said,''It is now close to five months since your office began processing the scurillous complaint of sexual harassment against Jorgensen for the use of general classroom language that allegedly offended a student who attended for only 45 minutes of a single class.''

''The fact-finding process was to begin within five working days from the filing date for the Request for Fact-Finding,'' said Broslawsky. ''On Dec. 1, 1993 the complaining party allegedly asked for the fact-finding to begin.''

Jorgensen was informed of the request for fact-finding on Dec. 21, due to Broslawsky's demand to Oliver's office to be informed of the status of the matter.

''The fact-finding is handled by the district,'' said Oliver. ''We're just following the board rules. Basically, we're (LAVC) out of the loop at this point.''

''Once again, you can end this matter by complying with our demand that your office issue an acceptable, official, written and publishable apology to Professor Jorgensen and that all copies of the apology be sent to all of the individuals, agencies and institutions that received the original spurious complaint,'' said Broslawsky in his letter to the editor.

In the memo titled ''A Message to Valley College Faculty'' from Marzillier, dated Jan. 21, he says , ''I would like to assure everyone on the faculty who is concerned that I, on be half of the Guild, have offered Chuck full legal representaion, should he wish it from the Guild.''

The complaint towards Jorgensen was filed by an anonymous female student with former Sexual Harassment Compliance Officer, Jeanne Polack, on Sept. 9, due to a statement made by Jorgensen the first night of class.

''One student,'' she said in the complaint, ''asked Mr. Jorgensen if he accepted extra credit. Mr. Jorgensen said that he doesn't believe in extra credit. He said that he used to ask for sexual favors as extra credit, but he doesn't do that anymore, not because he doesn't like sex, but because of AIDS.''

The student also said Jorgensen ''used frequent profanity, such as the word f--.'' ''I do not feel comfortable with profanity or with sexual language not pertaining to the course ,'' she said.

''(This whole thing) is like a cancer growth,'' said Jorgensen. ''It goes deeper and deeper. And like a growth, they're (LAVC) afraid of the light - the light of inquiry.''

Library crippled by quake

By SYLVIA A. FIGUEROA
Valley Star Staff Writer

The 6.6 earthquake of Monday, Jan. 17 has impaired the use to the library at Los Angeles Valley College. According to David G. May, library chairman, this facility will remain closed for a period of at least eight to ten weeks.

May said that among damages that have affected his area are 91 bookshelf units of 3 ft. by 90 inches which have been destroyed and will need to be systematically reinforced. ''Cracks have been found in some walls.'' May said.

May said that the clean-up began on Tuesday, Jan. 18 when water and electricity were restored. Gardeners, technicians, carpenters, machinists, and May himself together with some of his family members were among those who contributed to the clean-up. However, volunteers will be needed in the near future to help complete the job of straightening out the bookshelves. May said that the regular work team of seven to eight students and three full-time librarians have also been part of the working team devoted to the ordinance of the library.

A library shelving company has spent three hours inspecting damages specifically for the shelving repairs and has estimated reconstruction costs of at least $15,000. According to May, the District is responsible for assigning contracts with reasonably priced companies before any work can begin. May said, ''I hope a contract is streamlined within a couple of weeks so that part of the library can be used.'' May said he plans to arrange for students to be able to occupy the periodical section of the library and at the same time have the damaged areas repaired.

Among some of the book titles that need new shelving are music, art, language, Greek, classic and European literature, as well as journalism, theater and some English dictionaries.

''To assist students with library materials the Mission College Library in Sylmar and the Los Angeles City College Library on Vermont Avenue are temporarily allowing our students to check out books by presenting their student identification card or their registration receipts.''

In comparing the library's current situation to the closing of the library in the Fall of 1990 for reasons of asbestos maintence, May said that the library could not be used for 10 weeks, but students could utilize other areas of the library.



VALLEY STAR PHOTO

Some of the almost 100 affected bookshelves lay in ruins

News Notes

Scholarships

The Patrons Association of Los Angeles Valley College is offering the Sidney Sadoff Scholarship of $300 in memory of Sidney Sadoff, a longtime member of the LAVC Wind Ensemble. Applications are available in the Administration Building, Room 100. The deadline for application is Feburary 25, 1994.

School closed for holiday

School will be closed tomorrow in observence of Presidents day.

Tickets Given

Parking tickets were given to ilegally parked cars and cars not displaying proper parking stickers. There is a grace period until the third week of the semester. Monday Jan. 31 was that day.

Stress Counseling

The los Angeles Valley College Counseling Department is offering free stress counseling for earthquake victims on:
Tuesdays 11 a.m. to noon
Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
and Thursdays noon to 1 p.m. in Bungalow 13.

Editorial

For many of us, the January 17, (6.8) earthquake was more than a rude awakening, it was a jolt through our already raveged city like a bat out of hell, rendering us helpless, and in some cases, taking no prisoners.

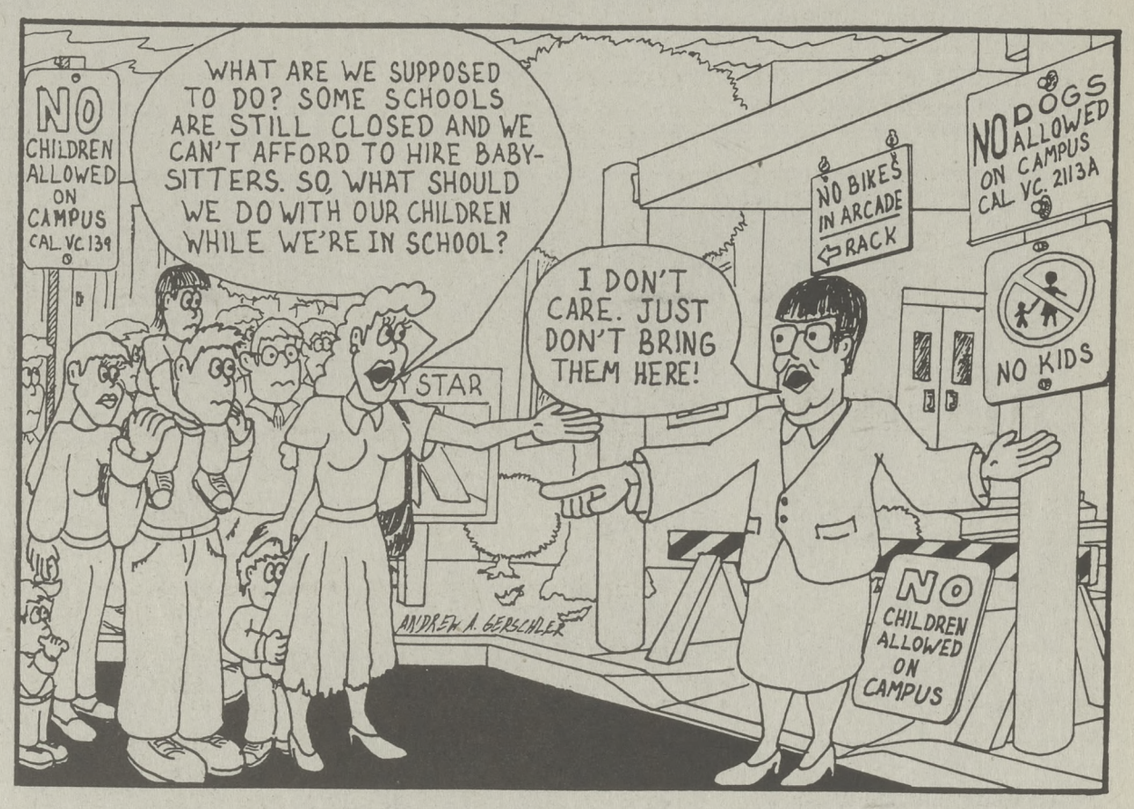
For many people the Northridge disaster is a slice of history to be looked back on with a shudder or a tear. But for many Los Angelenos this was a time for unity, a certain bond was made between neighbors. Strangers shared candles, blankets, flashlights and company, while a strong wave of comradary and tolerance prevailed over our physically and emotionally drained city.

After the past years of riots, fires, droughts, mudslides and floods, the quake seemed to bring people together. Out of the ashes and rubble rose the community of Los Angeles; or so it seemed.

It's now been approximately one month since the tremendous event and people are already forgetting. They've forgotten how to say 'pardon me' when passing by. They've forgotten how to smile and say 'hi' when passing down the halls or on the street. Our own college president Mary Lee has even requested that parents not bring their children to school. People have already forgotten how to be tolerant.

The need for tolerance is at it's highest level and this is the time we need it most. Nerves are shot, post-quake depression is setting in, and we could all use a little TLC. We could all stand to be a little tolerant of one another.

The fact of the matter is that this quake was the worst disaster in the history of Los Angeles. What doesn't have to be a fact is the mounting level of intolerance.



Pro:

Prompt start was the right thing

By S.L. SALAMONE
Managing Editor

Kudos to Valley President Mary E. Lee, who despite some opposition, decided to open the school just one day behind schedule.

In her letter of January 19, to faculty, staff and administrators Lee said "...this Spring Semester is probably the most difficult challlenge we have faced at the College."

Knowing how emotionally and physically everyone has been effected, she continued, "In spite of our own losses and tremendous inconvenience, we will open this campus today with a "can do" attitude."

Faculty President Jack Sterk's letter of January 24, was self-serving and whining. He states that Lee's decision to open the school, "lacked any empathy or sympathy ..." He calls it a cruel decision.

A cruel decision would have been to have kept the school closed for an indefinite period, leaving people to wonder about, with everything else they had to wonder about, what was going to happen.

It was good to return to school. To get on with life and to be able to do something normal. Sterk says in his letter,"A college is more than buildings and it is not a factory. It is made up of people who have worked hard under adverse conditions..." I agree and I would like to add that a college is a pillar of the community and as such should set an example.

Lee concludes her letter with thanks to faculty, staff and family volunteers who had already been at work putting the campus back into working order. "This week and the weeks to come may be our biggest test...Thank you for everything you have and are doing to keep this great institution viable."

In times of adversity people need something to look to. Getting to school is a little more difficult now and finding the money to pay for all the extra expenses, caused by the earthquake is going to take the phrase, "creative financing" to new heights.

However, being able to return to school was like a breath of fresh air, a constant in my life that more than anything else helped me to keep it together in a life that feels literally like a jigsaw puzzle in a heap.

Lee's message is clear, make due and pick up the pieces, it's time to get on with your life.

Con:

School opening is heartless and irrational

By JOSHUA FORD
Valley Star Staff Writer

The decision to open Los Angeles Valley College for business as usual just two days after the most devastating natural disaster in the history of Modern Los Angeles was a gross misjudgement on the part of all those involved.

I fail to understand how any individual would not realize the tremendous weight of the situation we were placed in at 4:31 a.m., January 17. Possessions were lost, homes were lost, human lives were lost, and for many, faith in the earth beneath our feet was lost.

Valley has been designated as a disaster shelter, but when disaster arose it acted only as another burden for victims of the quake who had to venture out into streets which Mayor Richard Riordan encouraged us all to keep clear of so, that emergency vehicles could perform their jobs efficiently. The students braved the journey to school for fear of losing their seats in overbooked classes.

Administration never forbade teachers from dropping students because of poor attendance those first few days, they merely sent out notices encouraging staff to be leniant with attendance. This apparently went ignored because I personally bore witness to students being marked off and chastised for tardiness and poor attendance during the first days of classes.

During that time Valley should have been a center for reassuring, calming, and supporting students through the emotional crisies resulting from the quake and its many aftershocks. Instead, our school became yet another weight on our shoulders, forcing faculty and students to abandon their foremost responsibility, caring for homes and families.

After delivering the first blow, Valley President Mary Lee slammed us with a hard uppercut, forbidding students from bringing children into classes.

This message lacked a single ounce of compassion or fore thought. With so many local schools closed there was nowhere to send children.

Even if there were spots open at daycare facilities, who did our president think was going to pay for it? Assuming she is a rational thinking person, the only other option Lee must have had in mind was leaving small children unattended and alone in earth-quake ravaged homes.

The most disheartening element brought about by this affair is the realization that Valley appears to have gone the way of so much of contemporary America, ignoring the needs of many in favor of the wants of an elite few.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

For the past quarter century I have been a one-man advertising campaign for Los Angeles Valley College in particular and for the community college system in general. As a young veteran in the mid-sixties, my experiences on campus, including service as editor of both the Valley Star and the campus literary journal, were a major influence in a life devoted to writing and publishing and social activism.

Now, a quarter century later, I have served many years on the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Country Domestic Violence Program, taught for 15 years in American prisons, and I remain perpetually engaged it seems with protesting assaults on First Amendment rights initiated by the very educational systems that should be devoted to protecting them.

Which brings me to the immense sadness I feel in writing this letter protesting your frankly deplorable treatment of L. C. Jorgensen following the accusation against him.

I am frankly outraged that you would first impugn Jorgensen's moral and academic reputation by making the charge semi-public before fully investigating and then you have the temerity, the gall, to sit on your hands when he asks only for civil responsibility. You owe the apology, even if you lack the self-respect it takes to stand up and admit the folly, and folly is exactly what it is.

In any case, ask of yourselves a little historical perspective, where were the "Speech Police" when Ben Franklin's brother was imprisoned for publishing a newspaper? They were putting a price on Tom Paine's head. Is Huck Finn silenced because he says "Nigger?" Is James Baldwin silenced? Henry Miller? Mary Shelley and Amiri Baraka? Under the guise of "sensitivity," you would stand silently by wholly ridiculous charges? And what's worse, you apparently have so little faith in the Constitution that you are unwilling to defend it. You cast a pallor over everything I hold dear about my alma mater.

Sam Hamill
LAVC Alumni

FEMA procedure should be re-evaluated

By AMANDA L. DUCHOW
Editor-in-Chief

If our nerves weren't rattled enough by the 6.8 earthquake, it seems that procedures used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are doing a good job of rattling them further.

While many residents have been forced to stand in endlessly long lines at FEMA relief centers just to get an appointment, other San Fernando Valley residents received checks in the mail from FEMA without ever applying.

After inspectors came to some Reseda and Northridge residents homes, they received checks in the mail. According to reports on Channel 4 news, FEMA officials explain the distribution of checks to residents by saying that financial loan distribution has been based on the areas that endured the most ground movement.

Residents who have received loans by mail with out ever applying are, in most cases, still able to occupy their homes. While others do not have the opportunity to receive aid by mail since they don't have a mail box, let alone a home.

The way in which officials of the FEMA have handled this disaster, which has surpassed Hurricane Andrew in the amount of financial damage.

This agency responded quickly and tried to make the procedures as effective and effortless as possible.

Due to this disaster 20,000 residential units in this city alone have been deemed uninhabitable. With so many residents displaced, many of whom continue to live in tent cities and shelters, long lines are to be expected. After all that we have been through a long line is the least of our worries.

A major concern, however, is that people who have become homeless due to this quake must remain homeless because they have had to wait all this time just to have their actual appointment with a FEMA inspector.

Red tape is something that goes hand in hand with natural disasters, and is something we must learn to cope with.

But as winter rains begin to pound us, I ask FEMA officials to spend just one night in a shelter, just one night in a tent, or one night in a house where star gazing has become easy through the cracks in the ceiling.

After that, perhaps government officials will begin to rethink the procedures at hand.

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Editorial and Advertising offices
5800 Fulton Ave.Van Nuys, CA 91401
(818)781-1200, ex. 275/276
Advertising Ext. 239

Represented by CASS
Advertising Service
1800 Sherman Pl. Evanston, IL. 60201

AMANDA L. DUCHOW
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JULIE D. BAILEY
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

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LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

The Valley Star welcomes letters from its readers. Letters will be published whenever possible. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be typed and be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. All letters must be signed and include students ID number, major, and a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters may be dropped in the Valley Star mail box at Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday's publication.

Group votes no confidence in Lee

A meeting was called by the Faculty Association Wednesday afternoon to discuss the opening Los Angeles Valley College on Wednesday January 19, two days after the devastating 6.8 earthquake that rocked the San Fernando Valley.

The meeting was attended by LAVC faculty, classified staff, and students. The faculty association made a motion declaring a vote of no confidence against LAVC President Dr. Mary E. Lee.

Now that the motion has been made, Dr. Lee will be presented with a list of grievances pertaining to the decision to begin classes. LAVC students, who were represented by Associated Student Union representatives who held a caucus and decided to join the association in their vote of no confidence.Those attending the meeting hope that Dr. Lee will respond to the grievances and create a shared governance panel and disaster plan to avoid this type of problem in the future.

-Compiled by Amanda Duchow

Entertainment Calendar

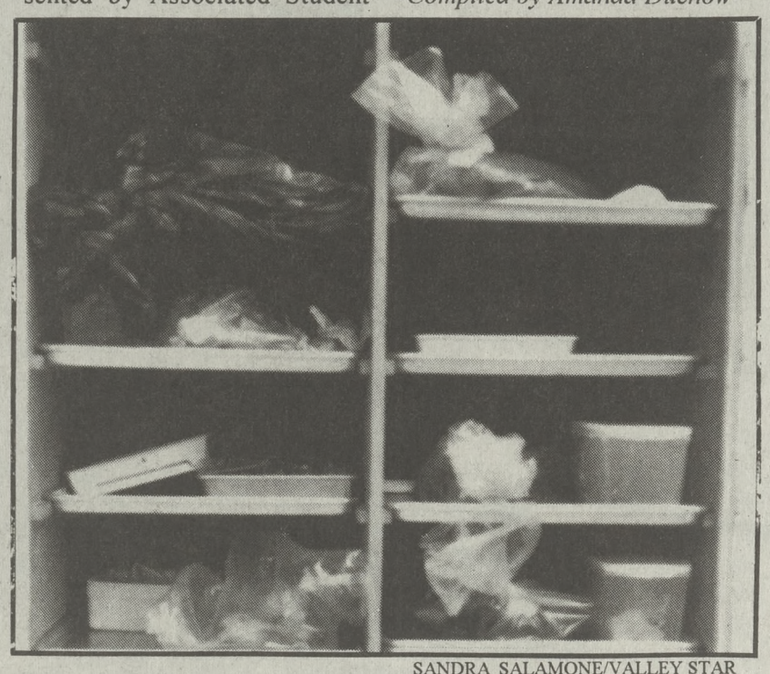
Theatre: *Steel Magnolias* opens Thursday, February 17 at 8pm in the Little Theatre located in the Theatre Arts building. $6 general admission, $4 students with ID and senior citizens.

Music: *George Hearn*, baritone, co-star of Sunset Blvd performs Thursday, February 24 at 11am in the Music Recital Hall in the Music building. Admission is free.

Film: *Sunset Boulevard* starring William Holden, Wednesday, February 23 1:30 pm in BSc101.

Valley's cats in no danger

By S.L. SALAMONE
Managing Editor



SANDRA SALAMONE/VALLEY STAR
The bodies of dissected cats lie in plastic bags

There were skulls and little bones on many of the shelves. Charts and diagrams covered the walls and there were books everywhere. The room had a sharp smell to it.

Blond, blue eyed, William Krauss, chairperson of the Biological Science department sat down heavily in his chair, folded his arms across his chest and prepared to be defensive. What's this all about he wanted to know.

A new semester and the same old rumor persists. Does the Anatomy class really use stray cats gathered from around the campus to dissect? Krauss threw up his hands and his voice rose in irritation, "This happens every semester" he said. "We don't kill cats."

Krauss said Valley College orders their biological specimens from a biological supply company and one phone call proves that Valley does indeed purchase their cats from a supply company. "They (students) can go and see the boxes with the labels on them." Krauss said.

Krauss explains why real cats are used as opposed to models or charts. "You have to know where the muscles are, you have to see inside." Models, plastic or otherwise are not accurate. Krauss said, "Actual living tissue is different from any model."

This is not the first time this rumor has surfaced. "We (gardeners) were being accused of killing cats a few years back." said Bill McMullen of the campus Garden Department.

The Garden Department complains that the community surrounding the school treats the campus like a park. People abandon unwanted pets, where they are left to starve and die under the buildings.

Cats that do not die however, learn to survive through the efforts of people on campus, creating another problem. "I'd like to see all the campus cat lovers have to clean up the mess we have to clean up" said Innocente Rodriquez, gardener at Valley.

Krauss agreed that the campus cats were a problem citing the flea infestation in the greenhouse area. "The place is crawling with fleas and they jump all over you."

He also said, "I saw one (cat) kill a bird the other day." Cats need to eat but there are no longer any ground nesting birds on campus according to Krauss.

Quake counseling on campus

By J. D. WOLVERTON
Valley Star Staff Writer

As with most everyone living and working in the Valley, the LAVC community was impacted in varying degrees - on a scale ranging from the calamitous to the barely grazed - by the recent quake and its aftershocks.

A number of college faculty, staff and students were required to abandon shattered homes and apartments.

The psychological stresses induced by the quake may prove to be of longer lasting impact than any structural ones however.

So said Dr. Carl King, an Encino-based psychologist working with the Los Angeles Community College District's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

In a phone interview King said that "there are a lot of people who experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. That's something that occurs when someone experiences something outside the realm of normal human experience," King said.

The psychologist offered as examples bringing on the disorder situations in which people are involved in auto accidents, shootings, or other types of trauma, in which they believe there's a serious harm to themselves or close family members, or where there's a serious threat of injury or death.

"Certainly, when the earthquake occurred, a lot of people felt that there was a serious possibility that they could lose their lives," King said.

Such an event particularly unnerves people because of its randomness and unpredictability. "There's a loss of a feeling of security. It's something that takes a long time for people to get over," the psychologist said.

In helping LAVC employees to cope with the trauma they've gone through, King offers individual counseling in his Encino office, as well as group counseling, in which he will go to the District-affiliated college to meet with the group.

King said that some individuals he has counseled since the quake still have problems sleeping, feeling jumpy when they hear noises such as a door slamming, or difficulty in maintaining an attention span for very long.

"It's important to have help available, not only for this trauma, but for any job-related trauma," King said. "People felt good that we had a role to play." In addition to providing counseling geared to disasters like the quake, the psychologist said that the EAP can also help faculty and staff who are undergoing job stress, or dealing with drug addiction or family problems.

Calling the EAP a "cost-effective program," King said that "according to the research, programs similar to ours have shown a cost of between $2-$16 for every dollar invested in the District's EAP. These cost savings come because, if people are emotionally healthy, they're not going to take so much time off for physician's visits."

For further information, Dr. King can be contacted at (818) 907-7701.

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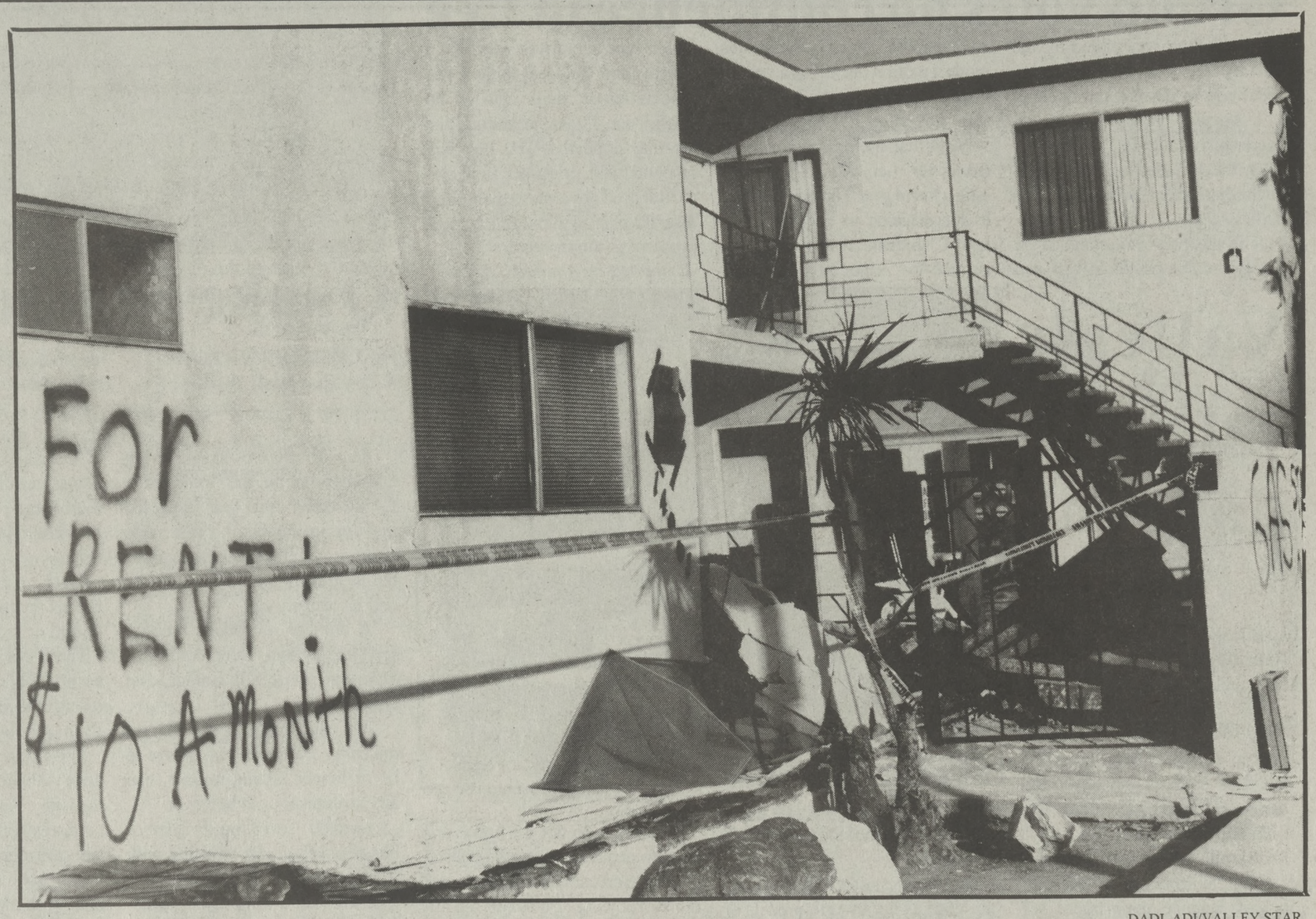
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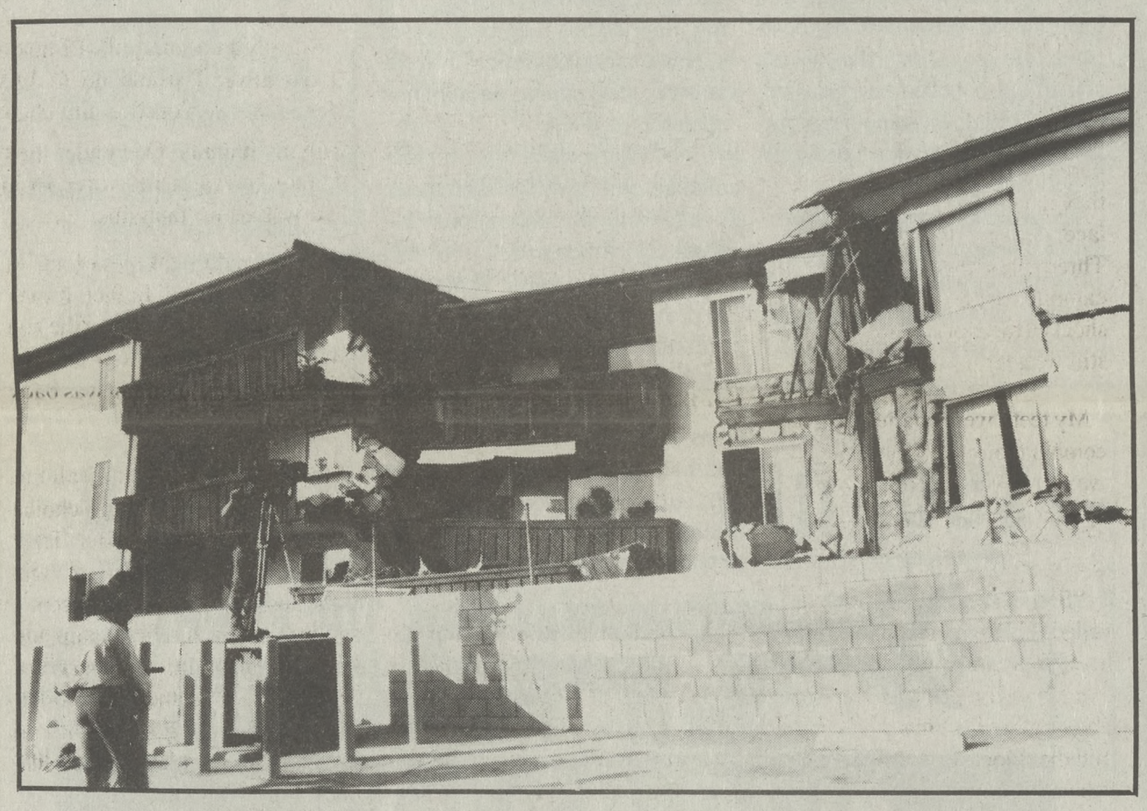
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IMAGES



DADI ADI/VALLEY STAR

At the corner of Hazeltine and Milbank, in Sherman Oaks, an apartment devastated by January 17's earthquake now rents for $10 a month.



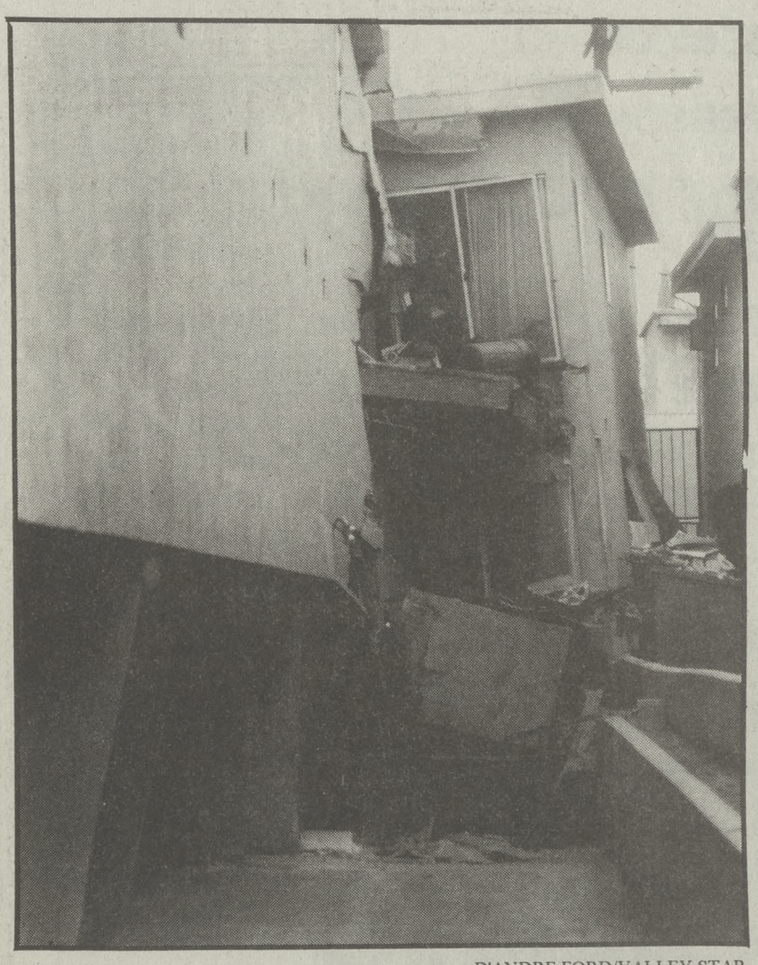
GERALDA BOTNICK/VALLEY STAR

The death toll rose higher after the bodies of 16 people were discovered at Northridge Meadows apartments. The first floor completly collapsed trapping many others who were able to make it out alive.



D'ANDRE FORD/VALLEY STAR

Colbath Street in Sherman Oaks was one of the areas hardest hit by the quake. This Nissan truck was completly crushed by a collapsed apartment building. The rear of the building is in the photo to the left.



D'ANDRE FORD/VALLEY STAR

The back side of a collapsed Colbath Street apartment in Sherman Oaks, where Valley College students once lived.

Violently shaken from our slumber in the early morning hours of january 17, the city of Los Angeles was given a rude awakening. The 6.7 quake, centered in Northridge wasn't even the "big one."

Among the shattered glass, came thousands of shattered lives. Remnants of what once were homes and apartments littered the Valley streets.

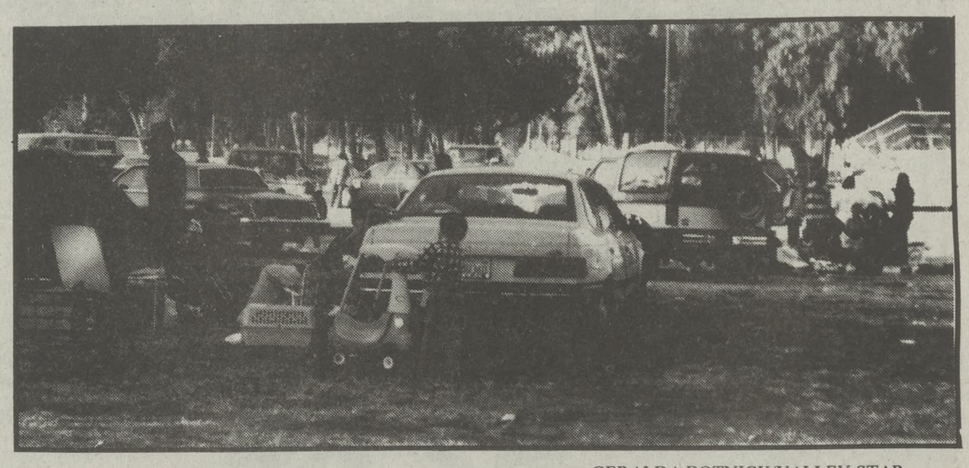
Images will remain with all of us as we move ahead in our lives, trying to put the quake behind us.

We will remember the Northridge Meadows apartment complex that took the lives of 16 people, CSUN's demolished parking structure, and the collapsed 14 freeway that left thousands stranded in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Most of all, we will remember the people, some who had never met before, some who will never meet again. Others who will forever remain nameless faces in the darkness, reaching out to help, hold, and support one another.

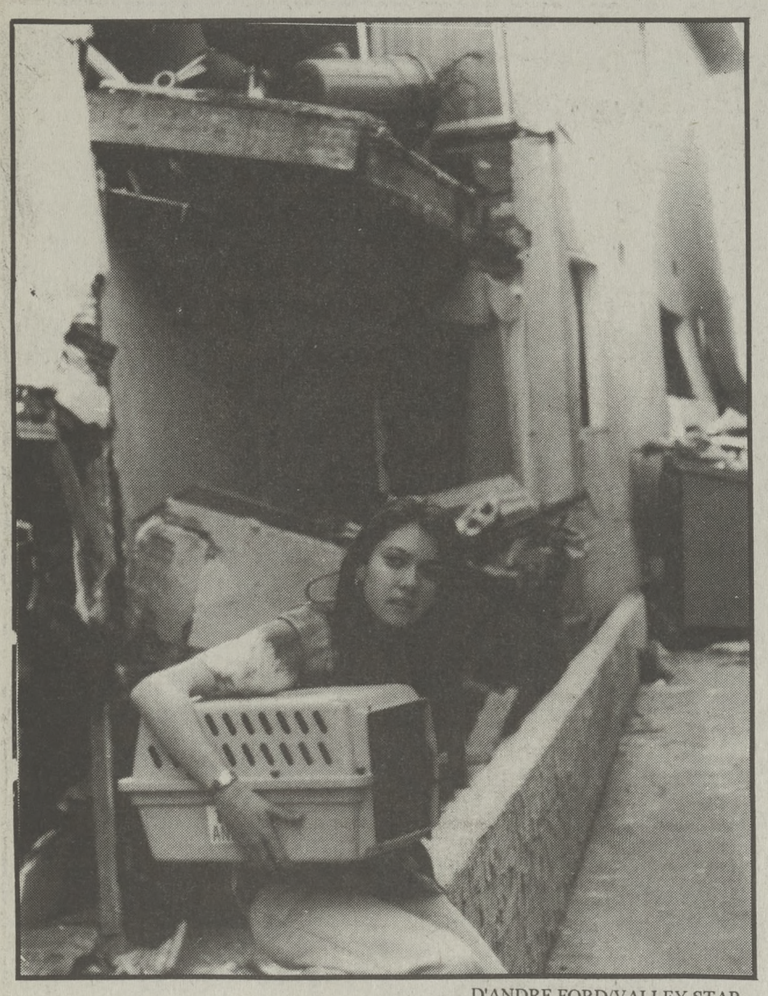
As the death toll climbed above 50, the city, like it has done so many times before, began to rise from the ashes. Riots, floods, fires and earthquakes, the city of Los Angeles came together with a fierce determination to be better than it ever was before.

-Amanda L. Duchow



GERALDA BOTNICK/VALLEY STAR

Many displaced residents created make shift homes in tents and cars. Public parks, like this one in Reseda became home to those who were to frightened to go home, or were not permitted to return to their houses or apartments. Some residents still remain in parks.



D'ANDRE FORD/VALLEY STAR

LAVC student Stacy Steele taking a moment to reflect back on terror of the collapse of her apartment in the 6.8 quake Monday, January 17.

Looking back and moving forward

❑An LAVC student reflects on the terror of the Northridge earthquake, and what it has taught her.

By DARYL GLINN
Valley Star Staff Writer

On Monday January 17 at 4:31 a.m., Stacy Steele sat upright in terror, not knowing what was wrong. Throwing out her arm fiercely, she found contact with her boyfriend's face, then clutched him protectively to her, as they both "screamed and shook so intensely we didn't even realize we had fallen 10 feet (to the ground floor)."

This couple was two of the five adults and one infant that survived the near total collapse of the apartment building at 4539 Colbath street in last months 6.8 Northridge earthquake. (The quake was upgraded from 6.6 late last week.)

"The first thing I remember is hearing Keith trying to light a lighter to shed a bit of light, but luckily it blew out right away because a minute later I smelled gas that was leaking some where in the apartment," says Steele. As Steele started to feel around for her glasses, her fingers touched broken glass and also the thirty degree angle of the apartment floor.

However her boyfriend was not as fortunate, "he told me later he saw the walls rip apart, mirrors and stuff coming down...total terror," says Steele, recalling the details of that day.

The bedroom door wouldn't open and the couple started to panic and scream again, until they heard neighbors coming to help. A neighbor busted down the door, and they all went down a stairwell that was at the wrong angle, having to climb up five feet just to get to it. "I'm not sure how we got down, but we made it out and I just sat there (on the sidewalk) in shock and started to shake uncontrollably," says Steele as she recalls an unknown lady that came by and gave her a blanket. "Keith wanted to walk barefoot to his mothers house, and I just wanted my cats," says the former student of Valley College.

Until last month, Steele was a photo Journalism student, ready to announce her engagement to family and friends. January's earthquake changed the goals of Stacy Steeles life. Last week, instead of standing in long lines to receive required classes, Steele stood in long lines to "hopefully" receive aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "I couldn't qualify for any of the loans available, but maybe there will be a grant I can get." For Steele lost most everything except a few pieces of clothing.

The best news for Steele is that she found both her cats. They found her "7 month-old baby," Little Ringo that same day under the bathroom sink, all wet. Four days later Cody, who so was happy to be reunited "he gave me kisses all over and even gave kisses to his little brother," Steele remembers with a heart felt sigh.

Steels bad news is that she now suffers from reoccuring childhood fears like being afraid of the dark and being alone. "I find it hard going down the hallway by myself" says Steele , as she tells about upcoming therapy sessions she knows she needs. "It's the night that really scares me," Steele further explains.

When asked what she wanted others to know about her earthquake experience, Steele gave the advice to get to the people around, reach out and try not to be so isolated. "get to know your neighbors before this kind of thing happens again." To others who had it harder than her, Steele says to "hang in there and keep building your lives."

At last parting Steele smiles brightly and says to look for her again because "I'll be back next semester!"

Regardless of quake experience, CSUN student plans to stick by L.A.

By JENNIFER CASE
Special to the Star

I guess it was the not knowing that was the hardest. Not knowing when or if the violent shaking was going to stop. Realizing, though, was even worse. I woke to a nightmare much worse than any I could have dreamed. A nightmare I'll never forget.

I remember driving home around 3:30 a.m. that morning from a fire in South Central. I recall thinking how lucky I was to have a home; unlike the family I had just seen whose belongings and lives had turned to ash. I examined my life and decided yeah, I was lucky.

Things were finally going the way I wanted them to. A great job, school to start, and the anticipation of my roommates coming home. It just all seemed to be falling into place.

As I crawled into bed that night, it was uncommonly cold. I cursed the repairman who had come to fix our heater and had failed to fix it each time. So I also pulled on some socks. It was one of the best decisions I had ever made.

I barely dozed off as I was awakened by a ceramic horse bust that fell from a shelf above my bed and split my lip. I quickly realized that the earth was shaking hard. Harder than I had ever felt it shake before. I ran for cover in the doorway getting caught on the corner of the closet on the way.

It was still shaking and the sounds of cracking plaster and broken glass was being drowned by the rapid thumping in my ear. The adrenaline kicked into full gear. I decided to decided to make a run for the emergency exit on the first floor. Dodging shards of glass and light fixtures that weren't exactly fixed anymore, I quickly flew down the stairs in the parking lot with other quake-rattled students.

"My teeth were chattering from a combination of the cold and fear. There was fire everywhere and gas was spilling into the air."

Then came new worries. Some students had run out half-clad most with no shoes on. Water, cold water, was flowing everywhere. And the smell of gas permeated the crisp night air.

"Oh god, I can't believe this. Somebody help me." One student I couldn't make out in the darkness said. Others cried and whimpered. Others clung to strangers they never met before needing solace and comfort from anyone. Three fires that surrounded the campus cast an eerie glow on the shocked faces of students who were still wondering what happened.

My teeth were chattering from a combination of cold and fear. There was fire everywhere and gas was spilling into the air.

"Someone turn off the gas," I yelled. "Is there anyone in charge here?" No one was. We were all alone and the power lines strung above us, and the gas, and the fire, and the flooding. But we had each other.

Someone suggested we move to a safe location. Like a herd of cattle we move together to another parking lot, and waited for the sun to rise. I still find it odd that the sun was a half hour late that day. They set up a makeshift infirmary and tried to bandage injured student's concussions. It was a good effort anyway.

Little did we know that we were on the epicenter of a quake that was the costliest national disaster in history. And that only across the street, 16 people were dying in the collapsed Northridge Meadows apartment complex.

All that we knew was that it was big. And we were cold. As we sat on dirt and grass laden with dried burrs, someone pulled up with blankets. This would be the first step towards recovery.

Silently I told myself, if I made it out alive, I would go to Las Vegas. I envisioned a life there with my parents. One under their thumb, their rules their ways. Even that was better than this.

But it didn't take me long to come back around. In fact, it took only a matter of hours. As the sun came up, I felt a renewed sense of hope. At least something was back to normal.

I've lived in Los Angeles all my life. I've left once, not by choice and came back shortly after. They say you either love L.A. or hate L.A. and there's no inbetween. I say that's true. It's like a ship and I am the captain: I've survived riots, flood, fires and now another earthquake—if it goes down, I go too. To me, there's no place like home.

Creating a 72 hour survival kit

According to leading special ists, the best way to survive a major earthquake, is simply to be prepared.

Having an earthquake survival kit could save your life. Disaster planners have informed us that we should be prepared and completly self sufficent for the first 72 hours after a large earthquake. It is likely that all emergency services will be too busy in other areas of the community to provide aid to all areas.

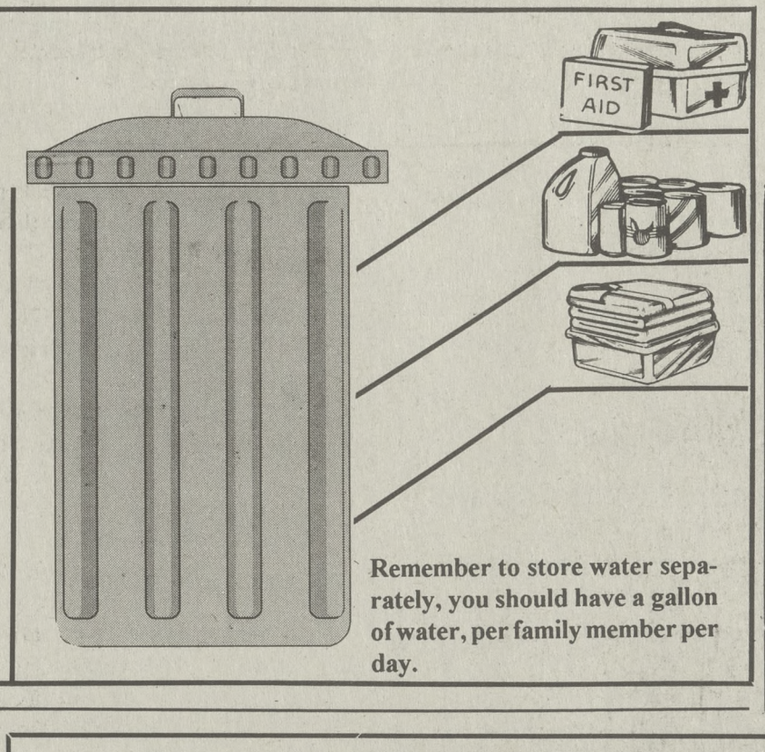
a 33 gallon or larger trash barrel. The use of a trash barrel allows storage in virtualy any enviroment.

Split the barrel into three sections. On the top layer, you should place at least one flash light, a radio a first aid kit and any prescription drugs. (Remember to take notes of expration dates)

On the middle level, place a three day supply of food that needs no refrigeration Include enough water to supply one gallon per person per day. This can be stored seperatly as well.

The bottom level should include things you need in daily life, bedding, clothing, fuel, equipment, child care needs, water purfication tablets,or liquid chlorine/bleach and an eyedropper.

Preparing now is the key to safety in the next disaster. Taking a few moment to do so now can save you much greif in the future.



Remember to store water separately, you should have a gallon of water, per family member per day.

The Valley Star would like to thank Ralphs Market for their contribution of information on earthquake preparedness.

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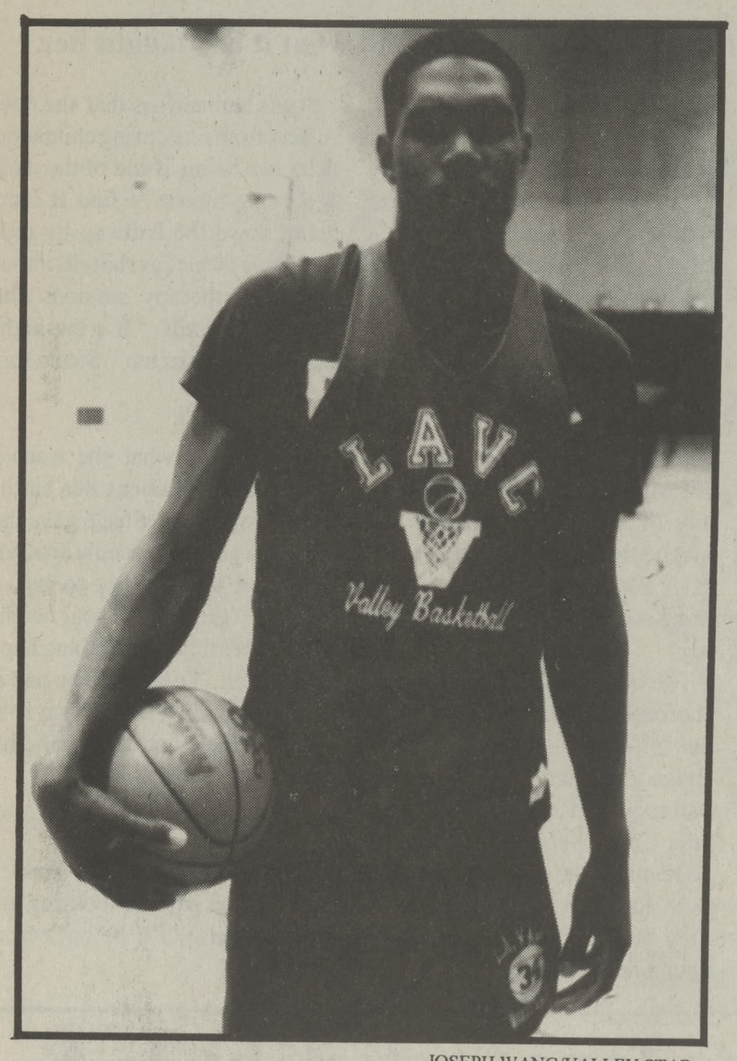
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Monarchs struggle through winter break



JOSEPH WANG/VALLEY STAR

Eric Grayson lead the Monarchs Basketball team in December

By HAROLD BROWN
Valley Star Staff Writer

The men's and women's basketball teams have been struggling for victories look at their won-loss records. The men are 10-6 overall and 2-4 in conference. The women are 12-16 overall but 4-2 in conference.

Head coach, Doug Michelson said, "I am a little disappointed at the overall record but I am proud of their effort. We lost all-conference player Wayne Carlisle to season ending injury. Yet, Craig Griffin and Kenyth Henry has stepped in and filled the void left by Carlisle's absence.

"We are tied for second place in the conference with Santa Monica behind College of the Canyons. I thought we would be one of the best teams in the state. Injuries and other personal problems from some players set us back. On the positive side, the women are freshmen and they have learned under fire of competition," said John Taylor women's head coach.

Both teams control their destiny towhere and how far they will go in the regional play-offs. They must win their remaining games.

Both coaches are expecting great things from their players named December's athletes of the month. Eric Grayson and Cicely Brewster will lead them with their continuing tough play in the up coming play-offs.

Grayson, a 6'6" sophomore was graduated from Van Nuys High School. He has averaged 11.5 points and 10 rebounds per game through the first 13 games for the Monarch basketball team. His hustle and hard play earned a spot on the All-Tournament team at the Hemet Rotary Tournament. Earlier in the season, Grayson was named the Western States Conference "Player of the Week."

Cicely Brewster, a 6'2" starting center was a redshirt from Long Beach State last year. She was a former All-City Player from Van Nuys High School. She started every game in December after missing play in November with an ankle injury.

Brewster, made all-tournament team at Fullerton averaging 12 points and 15 rebounds per game. She had a season high 16 points and 21 rebounds against Fresnc City. So far this season she has been averaging 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Lady Monarchs. "She has been a tremendous in our late surge in victories," said Taylor.

Jordan steels way into home

Weekly Column

By HOVIK KAZANCHYAN
Sports Editor

I was driving home the other day after trying out for the California Angels, I think it's real nice that Major League Baseball teams are giving tryouts to anyone who wants to play in the Majors. I think they're going to cut me. I told them that I played basketball in junior high, so they offered me a minor league contract. I didn't take it though, I don't like all the media coverage that I'll get.

So as I was driving, I thought of Michael Jordan. Can't the press leave this guy alone? It was a few months ago that he said that he was tired of all the glamour, all the lights, all the attention. But you turn on your set, and there he is.

Jordan does everything in his power to stay out of the public eye, but the media doesn't leave him alone. What does the guy have to do to get the press off his back, try out with the Bears or something.

I have no problems with Michael "Airstoturf" Jordan playing for the White Sox, I'm just upset that we can't do the same. Maybe a plumber from the South Side is a better hitter and a better fielder than Jordan, are the White Sox going to give him a tryout too.

Hey, if Jordan makes the Nashville Sounds, best of luck to him, and if makes the Chicago White Sox, even more power to him; he's going to need it. But someone needs to tell him that he's not doing a good job in trying to avoid the media.

Jordan has gotten his share of bad press. Some of it was unfair, but this is something he can't complain about. There are baseball players out there who can't hit a major league curve ball, and they've been playing baseball all there lives. Jordan hasn't faced a major league pitch yet.

What happens when Jordan decides that he's had enough of the late night six hour bus rides, the second class motels, the minor league "nobodys" who are now his peers?

How about the guy who loses his job to Jordan, your average minor leaguer, you know, played three years in single A, a couple in double A, and he finally made it to the big time, triple A baseball! He just moved to Nashville, he's barely making enough to support his family, and he gets a pink slip because a millionaire who's been taking batting practice for two whole months wants to play baseball. Taking batting practice with a Major League team is one thing, but trying to get on the team after telling the press how tired you are of them is another.

Again, if Jordan is good enough to play, he has every right. But for a guy who spent most of his time golfing, or tried golfing, a 24 over par isn't all that impressive for a "three-sport" athlete who's top priority seemed to be golfing in Vegas, well we won't get into that, and was a basketball player in the National Basketball League, to come in and make a major league roster, the chances are slim and even less than that.

Oh, don't get me wrong, he's in good shape, but guys who have been playing this game all their lives, need a few months in spring training to get in the form to play after only a four month absence. How does Jordan think he could make the team after warming up for a couple of months after a 12 year absence?

Oh, I got to go, I'm late for my tryout with the Dodgers.

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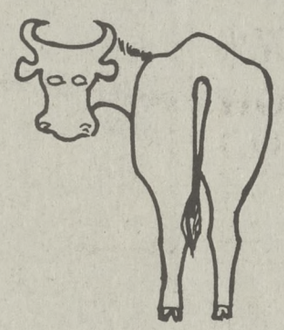
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A). A general during the Civil War.
B). A woman who bakes coffee cake.
C). A great liberal arts college that you can afford. Specializes in Psychology, Political Science, Literature, Business, Bio-Ethics and Jewish Studies. Has top ranked faculty, small classes, unbeatable internship opportunities, a beautiful campus, a comfortable Jewish environment. With excellent financial aid and scholarship programs.
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